

March Meeting Minutes
DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
March 3, 2015 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at OAPIA

Attendance: (in-person) Commissioner Dana Tai Soon Burgess, Commissioner Surjeet Ahluwalia, Commissioner Erick Hosaka, Commissioner Nicholas Lephram, Commissioner (pending) Martha Watanabe, OAPIA Director David Do, OAPIA Staff Andrew Chang; (phone) Commissioner Ben Bahk, Commissioner Sapna Pandya, Commissioner Laura Shin

Meeting Summary: Commission Vice Chair Dana Tai Soon Burgess led the commission meeting in Commission Chair Ada Loo's absence. Commission Vice Chair Burgess welcomed current commissioners and OAPIA staff at the meeting and commissioners on the conference call. Martha Watanabe will be sworn in on Thursday, March 5, 2015 as an official commissioner.

OAPIA Director David Do provided OAPIA updates and the OAPIA report to the commission. Director Do talked about his vision for the agency, the re-opening of the bilingual Community Outreach Specialist position at OAPIA, the agency budget and hopes to add more permanent agency staff, his ongoing office hours and outreach visits in the community, and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month events in May.

The commission asked OAPIA Community Outreach Specialist and Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs OAPIA liaison Andrew Chang to keep the commission updated on the status of the amended commission bylaws and statute that were submitted to the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA). Once approved, the documents will be uploaded onto the commission webpage.

The commission then proceeded to discuss status of the nomination forms and letters for the Mayor's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Service Awards. OAPIA Community Outreach Specialist Chang informed the commission that the nomination documents for the awards needs to be distributed during the first week of March, so that submissions can be collected by late March/early April. Watanabe informed meeting attendees that the nomination forms and letters are ready to be distributed, and that at least one Community Service Award will be given out, with an optional Volunteer Service Award in memory of the late Commissioner Ajay K. Ojha to be given out if there were candidates of merit. Commissioner Surjeet Ahluwalia stressed that Ojha should be honored in some way during AAPI Heritage Month, ideally through the Volunteer Service Award.

There are currently five vacant seats on the commission, not counting pending commissioners. OAPIA already submitted candidate names for these vacancies to MOTA. Director Do agreed to make the selection process for these vacancies more transparent for the commission, and will follow up with MOTA regarding proper procedure and protocol for the submitted candidates and future candidates.

The commission asked OAPIA Community Outreach Specialist Chang if commissioner biographies and photos can be posted on the commission webpage. Biographies and photos are permissible; at this point, the commission needs to submit their biographies and photos to OAPIA.

Commissioner Sapna Pandya stressed the importance of language access when District government officials visit the community during visits. OAPIA Director Do agreed with Pandya. Commissioner Pandya also had questions that pertained to ethics and ethics training, which will be followed up upon by Director Do.

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Announcements: The OAPIA and Commission Budget Hearing Meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2015. The commission is requested to schedule an appointment to testify by emailing ikang@dccouncil.us. The next commission meetings will be on July 8, 2015, September 9, 2015, and November 4, 2015. The strategic planning meeting is still being planned with no date yet; however, OAPIA Director Do suggested that the commission and OAPIA merge respective strategic planning meetings into one meeting in order to share information and align priorities.